

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
PENNSYLVANIA

138786

0617

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,  
AND FORESTRY  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
JOINT ECONOMIC

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 22, 2012

RECEIVED

APR 27 2012

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

The Honorable Michael Consedine  
Insurance Commissioner  
Pennsylvania Insurance Department  
1345 Strawberry Square  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Commissioner Consedine:

I am writing today regarding the proposed affiliation of Highmark and the West Penn Allegheny Health System.

This affiliation has the potential to preserve the economy of western Pennsylvania by ensuring that the nearly 11,000 employees of the West Penn Allegheny Health System continue to have stable employment. The region would be hurt if the system had to significantly downsize. The proposed affiliation seeks to preserve this valuable community resource for both patients and employees.

Additionally, the proposed affiliation should help retain provider choice in the western Pennsylvania marketplace. Choice allows consumers the ability to select their caregiver, while providing competition and value in the health care delivery system, which can help control ever rising medical costs. Controlling costs is an important consideration of local employers who strive to provide quality, affordable health care coverage for their employees.

Thank you in advance for the consideration of my views. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this proposed affiliation.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

cc: Robert Brackbill, Chief, Company Licensing Division

04